

***DOLERUS MEGAPTERUS* CAMERON, *PONTANIA TUBERCULATA*
(BENSON) AND OTHER RARE SAWFLIES (HYMENOPTERA:
SYMPHYTA) IN WARWICKSHIRE (VC38)**

ADAM WRIGHT

Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Jordan Well, Coventry CV1 5RW

ALTHOUGH poorly studied on a national scale, the Sawflies (Hym: Symphyta) have attracted considerable attention in Warwickshire over the last seventy years. A review by Wright (1988) listed the local status for the 262 species recorded in the vice county at the time. Subsequent fieldwork, however, has yielded a further 14 species "new" to Warwickshire.

The rare *Dolerus megapterus* Cameron was swept from an area of damp meadow containing several species of *Cyperaceae* (male; 8.5.1989, A. Wright) at Ufton Fields, SP3861. Benson (1952) refers to the then only English record as "... according to Cameron, the Manchester district of England." It is worthwhile noting that the species has previously been recorded in Warwickshire at Sutton Park, SP 0998 (male; 23.4.1958, H.W. Daltry).

Three species of *Dolerus* were added to the county list following fieldwork at Sutton Park, SP0998 on 17th May 1988. They were all taken by the author during sweeping of marginal vegetation and nearby wet heath in the vicinity of Little Bracebridge Pool, Sutton Park. Males of *Dolerus anticus* (Klug), *Dolerus gessneri* Ed. Andre and *Dolerus yukonensis* Norton were obtained. All three species are essentially northern, being largely confined to sites north of the Humber/Severn line, and Benson (1952) regards the first two species as very local. A further species of extremely localised *Dolerus*, *Dolerus bimaculatus* (Geoffroy), was encountered on the same day. A site visit to Little Bracebridge Pool on 18th June 1988 produced large numbers of *D. bimaculatus*, both by sweeping marginal vegetation and by sweeping areas of *Equisetum* near the pool. *D. bimaculatus* had previously been taken on one occasion in Warwickshire (Wright and Lane, 1989). Sutton Park produced one further species new to Warwickshire. Several groups of Diprionid larvae were found feeding gregariously on *Pinus sylvestris* L. (18.6.1988, D.J. Mann). Some of the larvae were retained, and upon emerging as imagines proved to be *Neodiprion sertifer* (Geoffroy). Emergence occurred over the period 15-25.9.1988, producing twenty females and one male specimen.

Pontania tuberculata (Benson) was taken during fieldwork at Herald Way Marsh SSSI, SP3876 (female; 19.5.1988, D.J.Mann), although precise details of the capture are unfortunately not available. Benson (1958) gave only five known British localities for the species, only one of which was in England (Malham Tarn, Yorkshire).

Neurotoma saltuum (L.) new to Warwickshire, was found basking in sunlight on a Bramble leaf at Ryton Wood, SP3872 (female; 22.5.1989, A. Wright). Data from the Sawfly Study Group files reveals only six other recent records of this species in Britain. During the same excursion a second county record for *Pamphilius balteatus* (Fallen) was also produced (female; 22.5.1989, A. Wright).

Other species recently added to the County lists are as follows:

Xiphydria camelus (L.) flying fast down the main ride of Brandon Wood, SP3976 (female; 19.6.1988, D.J. Mann).

Hartigia nigra (Harris) - Wappenbury Wood SP3771 (female, 20.6.1988, D.J. Mann).

Perineura rubi (Panzer) - Kingsbury Wood SP2397 (female; 18.5.1989, R.J. Barnett).

Tenthredo olivacea Klug - Ryton Wood SP3872 (male; 18.7.1988, A. Wright).

This species subsequently has been found at several woodland localities in Warwickshire.

Eutomostethus gagathinus (Klug) - fields near Hungerley Hall Farm, Coventry SP3879 (male; 30.5.1989, A. Salisbury).

Dineura testaceipes (Klug) — Ryton Wood SP3872 (female; 11.5.1988, D.J.: Mann).

Euura testaceipes (Zaddach) — Ryton Wood SP3872 (female; 11.5.1988, D.J. Mann).

Amauronematus trautmanni Enslin — Brandon Wood SP2976, (female; 17.5.1988, A.C. Barlow).

Vouchers for all the above are housed in the collections of the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Darren Mann, Tony Barlow, Ray Barnett and Andrew Salisbury for permission to use their records.

References

- Benson, R.B., 1952. Hymenoptera. 2. Symphyta *Handbk. Ident. Br. Insects* VI Part 2 (b) pp.64-77.
—, 1958. Hymenoptera. 2. Symphyta *Handbk. Ident. Br. Insects* VI Part 2 (c) p.205.
Wright, A., 1988. The Sawflies (Hymenoptera: Symphyta) of Warwickshire. *Proc. Coventry and District Natural History and Scientific Society* VI No. 2, pp.69-80.
—, and Lane, S., 1989. Records of Sawflies (Hym.: Symphyta) new to Warwickshire. *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 125 p.127.